



August 2022

Connecting the DOTs

Transit Awards

The SDDOT was recently awarded two discretionary grants through the the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emission and/or Buses and Bus Facilities grant program. The SDDOT is receiving this funding on behalf of River Cities Public Transit, Prairie Hills Transit, Community Transit of Watertown/Sisseton Inc., and the Rural Office of Community Services.

The SDDOT and public transit providers in South Dakota have been awarded over \$6 million in discretionary grants since 2017. To view all of these grants and the impactful projects that they helped fund, visit: <https://dot.sd.gov/dot-fact-book>.

Sturgis Rally

One of the most common Rally questions the SDDOT receives is about how we annually count traffic.

Steve Kamarainen, Rapid City Region Traffic Engineer, addressed the process with a social media video. Click on the picture below to view Steve's video.

Thank you to all of the SDDOT employees who played a role in helping the 2022 Sturgis Rally run smoothly and safely!



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SDDOT Mission:

To efficiently provide a safe and effective public transportation system

SDDOT Vision:

Better lives through better transportation by being the best



The Secretary's Corner



Keeping our highways safe during the winter months is one of the most important services the department provides to the traveling public. **SDDOT Snowfighter Roadeos** are fun events held to give snowplow operators a chance to test and improve their plowing skills prior to snow removal season.

The Roadeo events are sponsored by the South Dakota Safety Council. The driving course is a scored competition that allows drivers to test their skills against the other drivers in their region.

Roadeos provide the chance to share experiences, techniques, and best practices with counterparts; while encouraging team building for the snowplow operators going into the winter season.

Roadeos:

Mitchell & Aberdeen Regions:

Sioux Falls: Sept. 27-29, 2022

Rapid City & Pierre Regions:

Rapid City: Oct. 4-6, 2022

State Finals:

Pierre: Oct. 12, 2022

Save the Date - Employee Meetings: (More details to be shared in September!)

Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022 from 10:30 a.m. - Noon

Mitchell Region maintenance staff attending the Roadeo in Sioux Falls

Other staff in the Mitchell Region, who won't be at winter engineering meetings, should also attend.

*This includes administrative, planning & engineering staff, etc.

Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022 from 1-2:30 p.m.

Aberdeen Region maintenance staff/staff attending the Roadeo in Sioux Falls

Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022 from 10:30 a.m. - Noon

Pierre Region maintenance staff/staff attending the Roadeo in Rapid City

Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022 from 1-2:30 p.m.

Rapid City Region maintenance staff attending the Roadeo in Rapid City

*Other staff in the Rapid City Region, who won't be at winter engineering meetings, should also attend.

Pierre Central Office: Mon., Nov. 21 or Mon., Nov. 28 (9 – 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 - 3 p.m.)

More information to come about designated meeting date/time for each office.

Pierre Region staff, not at a Roadeo or winter engineering meeting, attend with Central Office staff.

Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023 from 10:30 a.m. -Noon or Wednesday Feb. 1, 2023 from 1-2:30 p.m.

Pierre and Rapid City Region staff attending **winter engineering meetings**

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023 from 10:30 a.m. -Noon or Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023 from 1-2:30 p.m.

Mitchell and Aberdeen Region staff attending **winter engineering meetings**



Commonly Asked Training Questions

Brenda Thomas, Training Coordinator

Q: I have a training idea, what do I do?

BT: The easiest thing to do is call or email me. I will explain the process and send you documentation to complete. I will take your idea to the subject specific STG.

Q: What is a STG?

BT: STG stands for Standing Training Group. DOT currently has six STGs: Leadership, Construction & Materials, Skills, Design, Planning and Maintenance, Operations, Safety Training (MOST).

These groups focus on their area of expertise to ensure that training is high quality and innovative. STGs review course and training development requests to determine if the training requests meet the requirements based on SDDOTs current practices. STGs are also tasked with reviewing developed training, identifying training needs for their training discipline, prioritizing training development, and keeping others informed about the status of training.

If you are interested in becoming a member of an STG, please let me know!

Q: I've heard the acronym TOB. What's a TOB?

BT: The Training Oversight Board (TOB) is made up of the SDDOT Executive Team and they govern the STGs. This group meets quarterly and hears what each of the STGs are working on. They also review topics of discussion that are unresolved within a STG.

Department-wide training, which impacts numerous employees within the department, is to be approved by the TOB. The TOB will also help prioritize training projects.



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Training Q & A continued

**Q: What other training resources do you have?**

BT: DOT employees are fortunate to have a variety of training resources available to them. Beside the large selection of courses found in the [DOTLMS](#), employees can attend in-person classes from [Bureau of Human Resources](#).

[Transportation Learning Network](#) provides multiple webinars monthly that range from DOT related technical subjects to non-technical subjects to help build your human skills.

[National Highway Institute \(NHI\)](#) offers courses in an extensive variety of program areas ranging from Highway Safety to Hydraulics to Financial Management from professionals in the industry from around the country.

The [Bentley SDDOT](#) Micro-Site serves as a one-stop-shop to find links to resources for the Bentley products used directly by DOT employees.

Finally, the [Lending Library](#) has over 200 professional development books at your disposal.

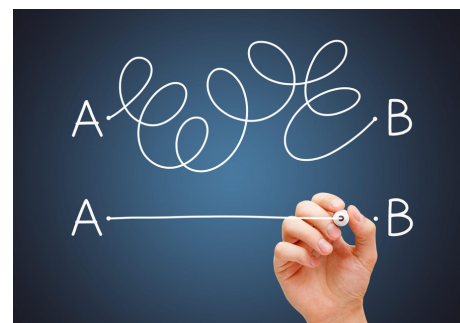
Contact the **Training Office** at dotlms@state.sd.us regarding any of these resources or any other training related questions.

Click on any of the direct links above to access a noted resource.



With school academic and athletic activities starting, check out these timely playlists on the LMS site: **Juggling Work and Home Life and Keep it Simple:**

Did you know you can click on a LMS banner when logged into the site to quickly launch a featured training?





August Mentoring Minute

Manufacturing Plant and Construction Project Tours

By Rick Walton & Greg Rothschadl



The Mentoring Committee hosted a July Mentoring event which was open to all participants in this year's mentoring program. The event consisted of tours of manufacturing plants used to supply materials to DOT projects and tours of ongoing or past DOT construction projects. The event was held in two separate locations, Sioux Falls on July 20th and Rapid City on July 27th.

For the Sioux Falls event, the group started with a tour of Egger Steel Company. Egger Steel supplies all different types of steel products to DOT projects, including steel girders and steel railing. Next the group went to Cemcast Pipe & Precast, which supplies concrete pipe, precast box culverts, drop inlets and manholes to DOT projects. A few pictures of the Cemcast tour were featured in the July Connecting the DOTs Newsletter.

<https://dot.sd.gov/media/documents/July%202022%20Newsletter.pdf>

Lastly, the Sioux Falls group, toured the Mitchell Area's I90 westbound lanes reconstruction project that is located between Mitchell and Sioux Falls. The group met with Rick Brandner, Mitchell Area's Project Engineer on this large project. Rick went over details of the project, project progress and remaining schedule.

The Rapid City tour had four stops, which included tours of two manufacturing plants and two construction projects.

Brenda Flottmeyer and Jeff Gillam of the Rapid City Area Office provided project information and tours of the I-90 & Lacrosse Street Interchange Project (exit 59), which will be the first diverging diamond interchange in South Dakota. Rich Zacher, Custer Area Engineer, provided project information and tour of a rehabilitation project on the Keystone Wye Bridge.

The two manufacturing plants toured were GCC Dacotah and Forterra Pipe and Precast. GCC Dacotah supplies cement to ready-mix plants and DOT projects throughout South Dakota. They also own several ready-mix plants in South Dakota that supply concrete to DOT projects. Forterra Pipe and Precast supplies concrete girders, concrete pipe, precast box culverts, drop inlets and manholes to DOT projects.

continued next page . . .

Mentoring Minute continued

A few pictures of the Rapid City tours are shown below . . .



At the end of the day, both the Sioux Falls and Rapid City tours were huge successes. DOT employees, that are involved in the Mentoring Program, from all over the state and all lines of DOT work, had the opportunity to attend these informative and interesting tours. The Mentoring Committee heard nothing but good comments from the groups after the tours ended.

The Mentoring Committee would like to send a huge **THANK YOU** to all that helped make this a great success, including DOT employees from the Mitchell, Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Custer Areas.

And, as always, make time for Mentoring!



August Transit Highlight

Did you know that Vermillion has a transit system?

Meet the Director, Barb Ballensky!

Twenty-five years ago, Barb Ballensky was offered a job to start a transit agency in Vermillion with a 2-year grant from the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Now Vermillion Public Transit is going strong with seven buses, 11 staff members, and federal funding. When Barb first started this job, she contacted other transit directors in the state for advice on where to begin and to learn what she had to do. As she learned the position she also had to spend a lot of time learning the federal transit regulations. Now she's become a director that other agencies contact when they need help.

In 2019, Vermillion Public Transit drove 75,101 miles and provided 61,940 rides. Pretty amazing when you think about how Vermillion has a population of 10,852. While they haven't recovered from COVID completely, they are working their way back up to those numbers. During COVID, they did lose most of their drivers to retirement but were still able to transport people as well as assisting with Food Pantry deliveries and grocery pick up service for customers. One woman called to cancel her scheduled ride due to illness and mentioned how she wish she had a Covid test. Dispatch had a driver drop off 2 test kits on her front porch that same day. This great customer service is just one example of the extra steps Barb's people take to help their customers out.

Barb enjoys her job because of the large variety of work tasks and states, "You wear many different hats. You can go from writing a grant in the morning to driving a bus in the afternoon to fixing a bus before you go home. You never know what the day may bring. There is never a dull moment!" Her favorite part about being in transit is that she is helping her community stay connected. There is no need for someone to move to a major town just to have access to medical care because transit can take you there and back. Barb had a story about one of her customers, a blind woman who uses transit regularly. About 5 years ago, this woman was considering moving to Vermillion but wanted to know what type of transportation was available. This was a great consideration for her when she decided where to move. She now brags to her friends across the county about what a great transportation service she has available to her and encourages them to move to Vermillion. This woman has since joined the transit advisory board and helps with policy and events.

In the future, Barb is hoping to be working more with the University of South Dakota to increase student ridership. There may be an opportunity in transporting students between the Vermillion and Sioux Falls campuses. And of course, Barb would like to get back to pre-pandemic levels which was tough when she had so many employee vacancies until three to four months ago. Now she is close to fully staffed and will hopefully get those numbers up.

Fallen Hero Bridge Dedications and Sign Installations

US Army Staff Sergeant Daniel Cuka was honored at a dedication ceremony on Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022, at the Yankton High School Theater in Yankton.

Photos by Kevin Heiman, Engineering Manager, Yankton Area.

The James River Bridge on S.D. Highway 46 was dedicated to Sgt. Cuka.

The Yankton crew did a great job placing signage. They are Nathan Loecker, Matt Munkvold, David Lane, and Alexander Cuka (family member of David).

Photo by John Huber Highway Maintenance Supervisor



A dedication ceremony to honor **U.S. Army Sergeant James Haider** was held Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022, at the BG Ernie Edwards Readiness Center in Watertown.

Jeff Brink, SDDOT Watertown Area Engineering Supervisor, is pictured with **Greg Whitlock, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.**

The Big Sioux River Bridge on U.S. Highway 212 in Watertown will be dedicated to Sgt. Haider.



A dedication ceremony to honor **Private August Otto, Jr.** was held Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022, at the Claire City Community Hall.

The bridge on S.D. Highway 106 over the Little Minnesota River, east of Claire City, will be dedicated to Private Otto.

The ceremony was attended by Mark Peterson, Aberdeen Area Engineer; who also provided the pictures.



Batch Processing with GIS

by Kimberly Zerr and Kathryn Wesson

There's a hidden trick in ArcMap, called batch processing, that might be of use to those who often find themselves running the same tool against a large number of datasets. For example, reprojecting feature classes to the South Dakota State Plane system, or clipping many different layers to a study area. To eliminate the repetition, each geoprocessing tool has a batch mode.

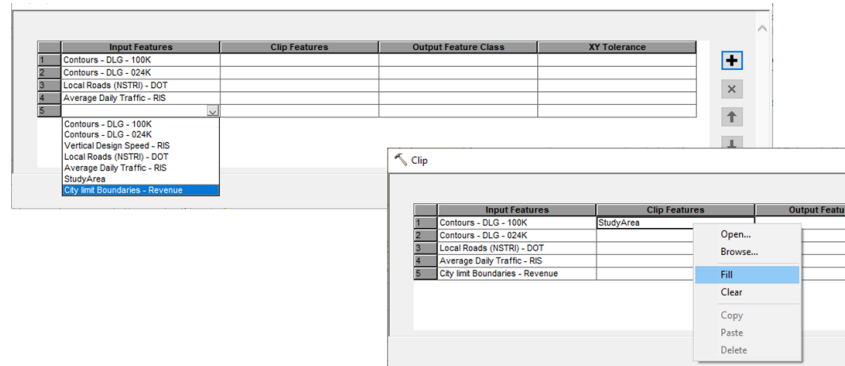
Let's say you need to clip some data to a study area. Rather than running the Clip tool one-at-a-time, we can batch it! I use this method all the time when I'm packaging data for corridor studies, but it can be applied to other objectives, such as wetland impact studies.

1. Pull the layers into your Table of Contents, then right-click the tool you want to use from ArcToolbox and select Batch.

2. Each row in the batch dialog box represents a single Clip process. You'll need to add a row for each layer you want to Clip by clicking the button.

3. Under the Input Features column, click inside each cell to see the dropdown list of layers currently in your Table of Contents. Go through the column and choose each layer you want to Clip.

4. Since we're clipping all of the layers by the same feature (the study area), you can select the clipping layer from the dropdown list in the first cell under the Clip Features column, then right-click that same first cell and select Fill.



5. Right-click in the first cell under the Output Feature Class column and select Browse. Navigate to the workspace where you want to save your clipped data and type in a name. Use the Fill method for the rest of the column's cells and simply change the last portion of the file location to make a unique name for the output feature.

6. Finally, click the verify button to ensure all of the data is valid. Then click OK to run the batched process.

As you can see, batch processing makes quick work of a repetitive process, and allows you to focus on other tasks while it runs in the background. Want to try batch processing for yourself? Give it a go and let us know! If you need further instructions, please reach out to the GIS team!



Highway Patrol Sgt. Ryan Lantz, "Thanks to the Winner Area construction and maintenance staff for putting together a plan and patrolling the construction project from Presho to Reliance during heavy Rally traffic. I personally witnessed how your work made a difference!"

***Doug Sherman, Winner Area Engineer,** provided this information about the work of the Winner Area staff to develop and implement a safety plan for Rally traffic moving through the Area!*

The mitigation plan we use in Winner Area has really evolved over the years. When we first started doing two-way closures many years ago, we didn't plan on doing anything extra for the time period during the Rally. We learned that we needed to do better. As such, each year we'd look at how things went the previous year and add/tweak things. On recent I-90 projects, I think we have gotten things honed and generally this run pretty well.

The key is to watch for traffic congestion, or things that can cause congestion, like a stalled vehicle and to deal with those things quickly before a real problem happens. As long as traffic is moving at a safe speed, generally everything goes well. Issues happen when traffic is not moving or is moving very slow.

To do this each year, we ask for volunteers from both our Maintenance Shops and our Engineering Crew who are willing to work over the weekend. They are onsite to deal with any thing that arises. Each project has plan notes designating that the contractor also has at least two people on hand over both weekends of the rally to help. The onsite crew of volunteers and contractor staff are ready to deal with about any event that can happen with the high volumes of traffic we get during the Rally inside our two-way closures. Examples that we often see are someone whose run out of gas, has a dead battery, etc. These types of events can lead to congestion which can cause rear end collisions. Our team is ready if needed, to divert traffic onto a detour in one direction only to help clear congestion from the work zone area.

We also work closely with law enforcement and emergency personnel to ensure that if an accident happens, they know how to navigate through the closed side of I-90 to get around stalled traffic and to assure emergency care is received. We didn't need to do it this year as our closed site was pretty easy to navigate through, but in the past we've actually given tours to ambulance and fire and rescue staff showing them how to get through the closed side of the Interstate if an accident happens.

I am very lucky, as I've never had an issue getting willing volunteers to do this work. I am very thankful to have such good people who care so much about their jobs and want to step up and help ensure everyone travels safely through our work zone, so we don't have a tragedy.



UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) Regional Workshop

Workshop Helps SDDOT Launch UAS Usage

By Larry Dean

This workshop was part of the ongoing Every Day Counts Round 5 (EDC-5) initiative, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), along with the Kansas Department of Transportation offered a two-day workshop to bring State Departments of Transportation together to collaborate on state-of-practice and innovations using Unmanned Aerial System (UAS). The workshop brought together transportation experts that accomplished the following objectives:

- Identified how State DOTs within the region are integrating UAS into their operations.
- Highlighted UAS applications, technology, and best practices for: Construction Inspection, Structural Inspection and Emergency Response.
- Provided insights on how to approach data governance in a multi-agency environment.
- Identified future UAS application and use cases.
- Visited Crisis City, a training facility for emergency response, to demonstrate innovative UAS capabilities.
- Connected with representatives from State DOTs within the region.

The interactive workshop provided participants an opportunity to engage with presenters and their peers during the general session, breakout sessions and breaks. There were personnel from 11 mid-America state DOT's that attended this workshop.

This workshop was attended by following SDDOT staff: Josh Olson, Jon Nelson and Larry Dean.





News Media Statewide Share Alex's Make-A-Wish Story

Keloland: <https://tinyurl.com/alexgreenkelostory>

An excerpt from the *Capital Journal* is included below and also found at: <https://tinyurl.com/alexgreencapjournalstory>

Alex Green's passion is baseball, yet the 5-year-old will never get to play. Alex is confined to a wheelchair and unable to talk due to a genetic disorder diagnosed in fewer than 400 people worldwide. But on Friday, Alex received a gift from Make-A-Wish — the Switch Hitter, a baseball bat attached to his wheelchair that he swings with the click of a button.

More than 200 people gathered in the Stanley Elementary School gymnasium for the gift's presentation to Alex and his Fort Pierre family.

"We hope your wish gives you strength in your battle," Sue Salter, president and chief financial officer for Make-A-Wish South Dakota & Montana, a nonprofit that grants wishes to children with critical illnesses, said.

"We are so blessed to live in the community of Fort Pierre," **Tyler Green** said. "There's nowhere else in the world I would want to raise my children."

Tyler's co-worker **Steve Rhoades** designed something similar for his grandson, who is also confined to a wheelchair. The boy's father, Dustin Rhoades, owns Ability Tech, a company that invents adaptive technology for people with disabilities. Dustin Rhoades built the Switch Hitter batting apparatus.

Tyler, 48, and his wife, Stacey, 51, took Alex in as a foster child when he was 13 weeks old. At the time, he had not been diagnosed with the disorder known as Allan-Herndon-Dudley syndrome. "He had a really hard first year of life," Tyler said. "When we got him, he only weighed 16 pounds. He had a broken arm and broken rib. He was just like an empty shell. He didn't smile or show emotion."

The Greens had Alex undergo genetic testing. "We could see (a problem) from the time we got him, he was non-verbal," Tyler said. "He was like a newborn at 13 months old." The disorder causes moderate to severe intellectual disabilities and problems with movement. This condition, which occurs exclusively in males, disrupts development of the brain from before birth. As Alex gets older, he may develop joint deformities called contractures, which restrict the movement of certain joints. Abnormal muscle stiffness, muscle weakness and involuntary movements of the arms and legs will limit mobility.

Those with the disorder have shortened lives. "Typically it's anywhere from early pre-teens to teenage years," Tyler said. "But they have found a couple who lived well into their 20s."



Growing the SDDOT Team in New Ways

Walk-In Interview Events Help Stimulate Recruitment Efforts

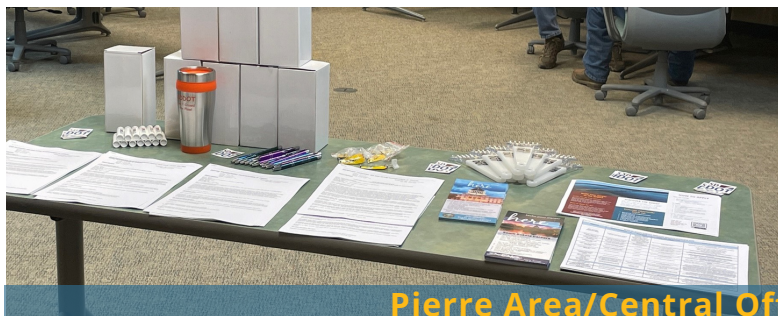
Recruiting new employees has grown to be increasingly difficult in recent years. Many of our SDDOT shops and offices are short-staffed and current employees have been doing an excellent job continuing to work efficiently and effectively while low on manpower.

To help offset some of these challenges the SDDOT attempted something a little outside of the box, informal walk-in interview events. The first event was held in Belle Fourche in April. Due to the success of the Belle Fourche event, several walk-in interview events have been conducted, including five in the month of August!

Below are pictures to recap the August interview events that have happened to date:



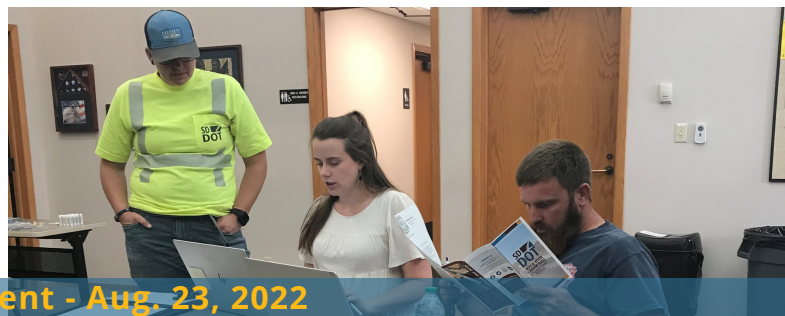
Sioux Falls Area Event - Aug. 16, 2022



Pierre Area/Central Office Event - Aug. 18, 2022



Rapid City Area Event - Aug. 23, 2022



Watertown Area Event - Aug. 24, 2022



SDDOT Hosts Intern Appreciation Day and Announces Scholarships

Intern Appreciation Day for all SDDOT interns was hosted on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022. There are many aspects to the SDDOT that our interns may have not gotten to experience during their internships and this event allowed them to learn more about the SDDOT.

At Intern Appreciation Day the SDDOT opened eight positions across the state for scholarship opportunities. See the sample flyer with additional details. The following positions are available for the scholarship opportunity: Stormwater Engineer, Foundation Engineer, Bridge Design Engineer, Pavement Condition Engineer, Road Design Engineer, Project Engineers in Aberdeen, Huron, and Pierre.

Current SDDOT Intern preference ends Sept. 16, 2022.



About The Scholarship

The SDDOT is offering a **\$8,000 per year** scholarship opportunity to college juniors and seniors who attend an ABET accredited university and maintain a 2.5 GPA.

Recipient shall remain employed by the SDDOT for a period of at least 18 months for each year of scholarship paid.

If recipient has not graduated, a full-time paid internship will be aligned.

For More Information

<https://dot.sd.gov/inside-sddot/about-sddot/careers-at-the-sddot>



SDDOT and GOED Launch Broadband Initiative

The SDDOT and the South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) recently launched an initiative to increase awareness and cooperation between state government and broadband service providers.

SDDOT and GOED worked together to establish an online self-registration process to allow broadband providers to receive SDDOT's annual Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) that outlines upcoming construction projects.

"We are developing this notification process to actively engage with broadband providers and inform them in advance of future construction projects throughout the state," said Craig Smith, SDDOT Director of Operations.

All broadband providers are encouraged to register at the South Dakota citizen portal website at <https://www.sd.gov/>.

Providers can directly access the registration form at https://www.sd.gov/csid=sc_cat_item&sys_id=536e31911becd1101c4fa97ae54bcb65.

SELF-REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE BROADBAND PROVIDER LIST

Receive notifications for upcoming SDDOT construction projects

The goal is to minimize repeated excavations to install broadband infrastructure along the highway rights of way.

Register Here: [sd.gov](https://www.sd.gov/)

SD
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

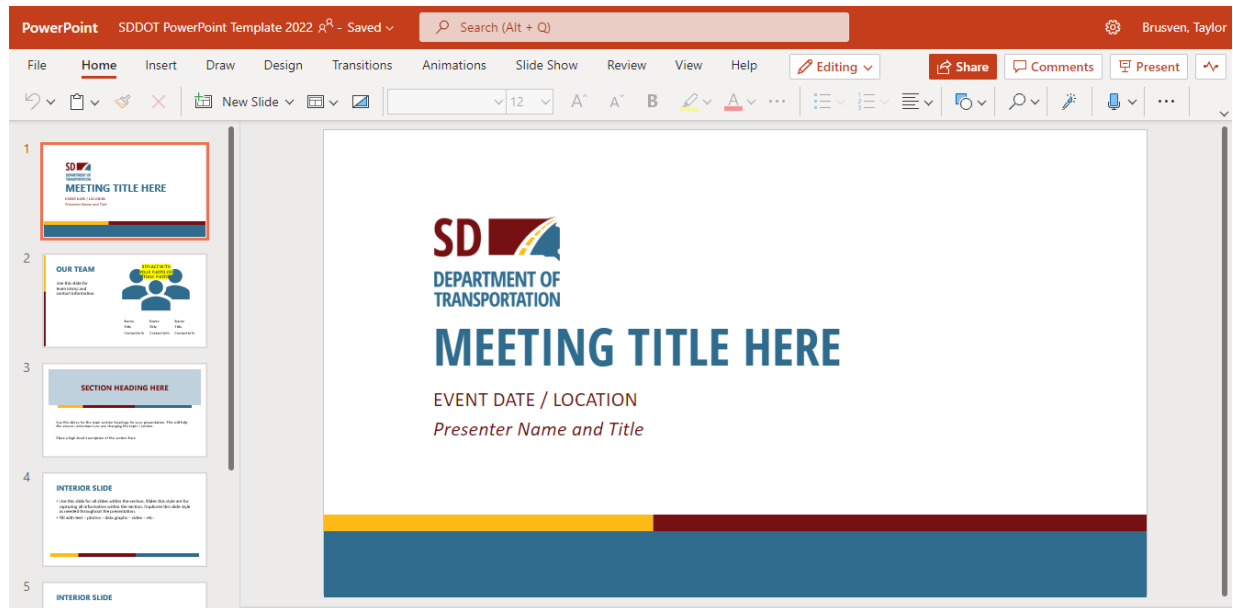
SOUTH DAKOTA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SDDOT Branding Materials

A new PowerPoint presentation template is now available for SDDOT staff.

All PowerPoint templates created to date are available on our branding site.
Use the template that works best for your presentation needs!

https://dot.sd.gov/inside-sddot/media/branding-and-identity-guidelines#listItemLink_1666



Heading out to fall community or back-to-school events?

Bring stickers and kids' activity packets!

Find samples on the branding page, or contact the communications team for more info.



Word Search!



Find all of the road construction themed words.

Words are hidden horizontal, vertical, and diagonal.

A E T J B
V W Q L C F T S
Y V I Z O L R E
I M E R V M A U Y
X H Q C O N E G C B
O F E S A H S D G K Y I K A
C R D A O D Q Q B H Z M S Q E W W N M R
A X A T R W B T D L C S I G N R O R F O R
X W Z K I A A D R N S Z T H T C A R G T E R
M U U C O N S T R U C T I O N K I K V K P H
E Y H K W G G M K F P F X Y K L V Z R S X E
Q I Y M B E L C R A F G I W C S L O W U O T
A K H A R D H A T I P M G H L W N X N O
G M E N B T E P
K L W F

Words to Find:

Orange
Workzone
Slow
Cone

Truck
Car
Road
Hardhat

Worker
Sign
Construction
Flagger

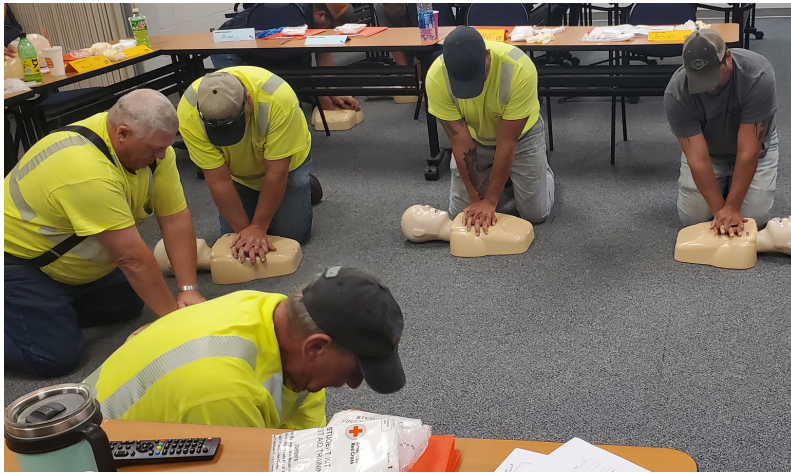


SDDOT Employee News and Updates . . .

The Flandreau DOT shop 277 was part of an award winning Impact Team!

Congrats to Daniel Trost, Josh Weber, Chad Urban, and William Burshiem!

Thanks for sending a photo showcasing your SDDOT Impact Winner t-shirts and your certificates!



SDDOT continues the instructor-led training on First Aid/CPR/AED in several areas!

Check the LMS for a training class near your location!

Pictured is a class in Mobridge Area performing CPR.

Asphalt repair Highway 19A, Richard Jahn and Tyler Small, Junction City Unit.

Photo submitted by **Lyle Norling, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker**



Asphalt repair Highway 19A, Stacy Rasmussen, Beresford Unit.

Photo submitted by **Lyle Norling, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker**





SDDOT Employee New Faces!

Welcome **Jayson Hall, Highway Maintenance Worker**, at Clear Lake. Jayson has a construction background and will fit in Clear Lake. Jayson enjoys farming, tractor pulls and spending time with his family, he has 4 kids.



Welcome **Stuart Stevermer, Journey Transportation Technician**, who started with the SDDOT on Monday, July 25, 2022. Stuart recently moved from the cities to Volga. In his spare time, Stuart enjoys golfing and going to the gym.



Welcome **Travis Dominisse, Highway Maintenance Worker**, who started with the SDDOT on Monday, Aug. 15, 2022. Travis will be working with the crew in Beresford.



Cody Olson (left) is a current student at Lake Area Tech and the SDDOT's sponsored student through the Build Dakota Scholarship program. Upon graduation, Cody will join our crew in Mobridge playing a pivotal role in creating better lives through better transportation. Cody is pictured with **Mobridge Area Engineer, John Villbrandt**.



SDDOT Employee News and Updates. . .

August Longevity:

Ken Brilz, ROW Appraisals Supervisor – 25 Years (Central Office)

Gena Boren, ROW Technician - 35 Years (Central Office)

Jerry Ortbahn – Federal Specialist – 45 years (Central Office)



On the left, Joel Gengler, Right of Way Program Manager, presents a 25 year longevity pin to Ken Brilz ROW Appraisals Supervisor.

New Hires:

Wayne Cleveland, Journey Transportation Technician, Aberdeen

Jayson Hall, Highway Maintenance Worker, Clear Lake

Mark Anderson, Accounting Assistant, Pierre

Brandon Shores, Highway Maintenance Worker, Sioux Falls

Joey Puetz, Highway Maintenance Worker, Mitchell

Travis Dominisse, Highway Maintenance Worker, Beresford

Cody Rahder, Highway Maintenance Worker, Isabel

Cole McCormick, Highway Maintenance Worker, Lennox

Dirk Leiseth, Highway Maintenance Worker, Pierre

Adrian McClarty, Highway Maintenance Worker, Sioux Falls



Promotions/Lateral Transfers:

Dennis Brooks, Land Surveyor-In-Training, Rapid City

Steve Weisz, Region Operations Engineer, Mitchell

Logan Gregg, Highway Maintenance Worker, Pierre

Destin Spellman, Region Bridge Engineer, Aberdeen

Susan Frederick, Accounting Assistant, Pierre

Stacey Bartlett, Road Design Engineering Manager, Pierre

Michael Border, Transportation Research Engineer, Sioux Falls

Craig Christeson, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, Watertown

Benjamin Kary, Highway Maintenance Worker, Sioux Falls

Joshua Christensen, Region Design Engineer, Pierre

Nathan Brockel, Equipment Technician, Pierre

Travis Bergeson, Lead Highway Maintenance Worker, Sisseton

SDDOT Employee News and Updates . . .

Brad Bowers (left) will be retiring as County Highway Superintendent of Harding County this summer. Brad began his Superintendent position in 2004 and has been working for Harding County since 1997. He has also served on the South Dakota Local Transportation Assistance Program (SDLTAP) Advisory Board since 2019. **Merl Hanson**, County Highway Superintendent from Beadle County is pictured on the right. He has been the Beadle County Supt. since July 2012, and has spent time in Clark County as a motor grader operator for 17 years and the Hamlin County Superintendent for eight years.

He started his career in 1998. In the center is **Greg Vavra**, Program Manager of LTAP, who recently presented certificates of appreciation from the LTAP board to Brad and Merl for their years of dedicated service!



Congratulations to **Corey McClelland, Project Engineer** in the Sioux Falls Area, who recently passed his PE Exam!



Steve Johnson, Chief Bridge Engineer recently presented **Steve Kerr, OBD Structural Engineer**, with his 10 year longevity pin.

Please meet **Atlas Boyd Berg**, grandson of Misty and Mike Berg of Winner. **Misty is a Journey Transportation Technician.**

Atlas came into this world on July 21, 2022. He weighed in at 4 lbs. and 15 oz., and 18 inches long.



Please meet **Tess Marie Heiser**. Tess is the granddaughter of Doug and Val Sherman. **Doug is the Winner Area Engineer.** Tess's parents are Tawny and Tanner Heiser of Watertown.

Tess came into this world on Aug. 24, 2022, and was 20.5 inches long and weighed in at 6 lbs. 1 oz.

In Sympathy . . .

Our sympathy to **Kellie Beck, Director of Finance & Management**, on the passing of her mother Debi.



Debi Englehart, of Pierre, passed away on July 30, 2022. A celebration of life was held on Aug. 4, 2022, at Lutheran Memorial Church in Pierre with burial at Riverside Cemetery.

Debi was the wife of SDDOT retiree, Bill Englehart.



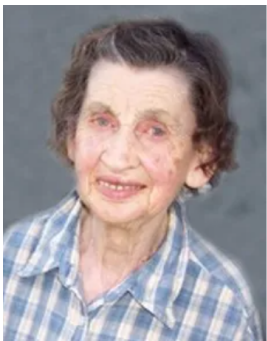
Johna Leidholt passed away on Aug. 10, 2022, in Pierre. A Scripture Service was held on Aug. 24, 2022, at St. John's Catholic Church in Ft. Pierre, with inurnment at Riverside Cemetery.

In August 1996, Johna started her career at SDDOT with the Finance Department, where she worked until her retirement in 2019.



Our Sympathy to **Lexi Lasse, Senior Secretary, Pierre**, whose brother, Brit Jones, passed away in San Antonio, Texas on Aug. 11, 2022.

Funeral Services were held on Aug. 25, 2022, at the Camp Crook Community Center in Camp Crook, SD. Interment followed at the Fairview Cemetery in Camp Crook.



Our sympathy to **Dave Huft, Intelligent Transportation Systems Manager and Broadband Communication Coordinator** and his wife Linda, on the passing of Linda's mother, Mathilda Schaffer, of Herreid on Aug. 10, 2022.

Funeral services were held on Aug. 16, 2022, at the Eureka Reformed Church with interment at the Eureka Cemetery.



Our sympathy to **Amy Klein-Greba, Training Specialist**, on the passing of her brother, Christopher Gerard Klein.

Christopher died at the Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls on Aug. 23, 2022, after a brief battle with cancer. A memorial service is being planned for later this fall in Pierre.

